

Message Text

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42
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /011 R

66624
DRAFTED BY:ARA/CAR:G. B. HIGH
APPROVED BY:ARA:CAR:JOHN R. BURKE

----- 117456

R 311918Z AUG 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUESPR/AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE 4348
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMCONSUL CURACAO
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

UNCLAS STATE 174102

FOL SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC INFO ABIDJAN ADDIS ABABA
BAMAKO BELGRADE CANBERRA CARACAS DAR ES SALAAM FREETOWN
JAKARTA KABUL MOSCOW NEW DELHI PORT OF SPAIN PRAGUE SANTIAGO
SOFIA STOCKHOLM TEHRAN TUNIS PEKING AUGUST 31, 1973 FROM
USUN NEW YORK REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

UNCLAS USUN 3036

DEPT PASS USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UN RQ PFOR
SUBJ: PUERTO RICO IN UN COMITE OF 24

REF: USUN 2967

1. AT ITS MEETING AFTERNOON AUG 30, COMITE OF 24 APPROVED
RES ON PUERTO RICO TRANSMITTED REFTEL. VOTE WAS 12 IN
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FAVOR (BULGARIA, CHILE, CHINA, CONGO, CZECHOSLOVAKIA,

INDIA, IRAQ, MALI, SYRIA, TANZANIA, USSR, YUGOSLAVIA),
2 AGAINST (ETHIOPIA, IRAN), 9. ABSTENTIONS (AFGHANISTAN,
AUSTRALIA, FIJI, INDONESIA, IVORY COAST, SWEDEN, TRINIDAD
AND TOBAGO, TUNISIA, VENEZUELA) AND 1 ABSENTEE (SIERRA
LEONE). ANALYSIS OF VOTE AND LAST-MINUTE NEGOTIATIONS
WILL FOLLOW SEPTEL.

2. IMMEDIATELY AFTER VOTE, AMB SCALI ISSUED FOLLOWING
STATEMENT TO PRESS:

"I CONSIDER TODAY'S VOTE BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON
DECOLONIZATION TO BE NOT ONLY IRRELEVANT BUT LUDICROUS.

IT IS PARTICULARLY MYSTIFYING, COMING ONLY A FEW DAYS
AFTER SECRETARY-GENERAL WALDHEIM IN HIS ANNUAL REPORT
COUNSELED THAT MEMBER STATES COULD DEVELOP A FAR MORE
EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION BY CONSISTENTLY
RESPECTING THE DECISIONS AND FINDINGS OF THE MAIN ORGANS
OF THE UN. SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE NOT ONLY
IGNORED THIS ADVICE; THEY ALSO IGNORED RESOLUTION 748
ADOPTED BY THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
IN 1953 WHICH CLEARLY RECOGNIZED THAT THE PEOPLE OF
PUERTO RICO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION,
PLUS THE CLEARNT DECISION OF THE 26TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
IN 1971 WHICH DECIDED NOT TO INVOLVE ITSELF IN THE QUESTION
OF PUERTO RICO.

BY THIS VOTE TODAY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE HAVE ACCELERATED
THE COMMITTEE'S RETREAT FROM REALITY AND CONTRIBUTED TO
THE TENDENCY DEPLORED BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO USE THE
UNITED NATIONS TO ACHIEVE NARROW GOALS.

THE RESOLUTION ITSELF CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES THAT THESE
DELEGATES DELIBERATELY CHOSE TO OVERLOOK THE REALITIES OF
THE PUERTO RICAN SITUATION. EVEN THOUGH IT CLAIMS TO BE ONLY
A "PROCEDURAL" RESOLUTION, IT REFERS TO A DISCREDITED
FRINGE GROUP WHICH ADVOCATES A PARTICULAR POLITICAL FUTURE
FOR PUERTO RICO. IT MAKES NO MENTION OF THE FACT, STRESSED
REPEATEDLY BY PUERTO RICAN GOVERNOR RAFAEL HERNANDEZ-
COLON, FORMER GOVERNOR LUIS FERRE AND MYSELF THAT 96
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PERCENT OF THE PUERTO RICAN VOTERS REJECTED THE FORMULA
PEDDLED BY THIS GROUP IN THE 1972 ELECTIONS IN PUERTO
RICO.

IT MAY BE SOME CONSOLATION TO THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO,
WHO UNDOUBTEDLY WILL BE AS OUTRAGED AS I AM BY THIS
BLATANT INTERFERENCE IN THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS, TO
REALIZE THAT MANY OF THE NATIONS WHICH TOOK THE LEAD IN

SUPPORTING THE RESOLUTION DO NOT PERMIT THEIR CITIZENS
FREELY TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON WHO WILL GOVERN THEM
AND FOR HOW LONG. THEREFORE, IT WAS PERHAPS INEVITABLE,
IF REGRETTABLE, THAT THEY IGNORED THE 1972 ELECTION
RETURNS FROM PUERTO RICO.

I HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT THE ACTION TAKEN TODAY WILL NOT CAUSE
CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES AND PUERTO RICO TO BLAME
THE UNITED NATIONS AS AN INSTITUTION. WE HAVE LISTENED
CAREFULLY TO THE STATEMENTS MADE TODAY BY REPRESENTATIVES
OF THOSE NATIONS WHICH COULD NOT ACCEPT THIS RESOLUTION.
WE FIND IN THESE STATEMENTS JUSTIFICATION FOR OUR CONTINUED
CONFIDENCE THAT RESPECT FOR THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CHARTER
AND FOR THE RIGHT OF ALL PEOPLES TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN
DESTINIES STILL EXISTS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE AS WELL AS IN
THE UNITED NATIONS AS A WHOLE. RESOLUTIONS SUCH AS THAT
ADOPTED TODAY, HOWEVER, DO NOT BRING CREDIT TO THE UNITED
NATIONS AS IT SEEKS TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS OF THE REAL
WORLD." SCALI UNQUOTE ROGERS

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